

Art Unit: 1623

CLAIM PTO

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Claim 1 (original)

1. A human-carried portable medical tank assembly comprising the following:
  - a tank;
  - a tank-holding assembly; and
  - at least one shoulder strap attached to the pouch, with at least a portion of the strap being configured to flex during movement of the human carrier of the tank assembly to such a degree that the perceived weight of the tank is lessened.

Claim 2 (amended)

2. (Amended) A tank assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least one strap comprises a multi-element strap.

Claim 3 (amended)

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3. (Amended) A tank assembly according to claim 2, wherein the strap further comprises the following:
- a flexible section;
  - a first structural section having a first end secured to the tank pouch and a second end secured to the flexible section; and
  - a second structural section having a first end secured to the tank pouch and a second end secured to the flexible section;
- whereby the structural sections are fabricated from a material that has less or no elasticity in comparison to the material from which the flexible section is made.

Claim 4 (original)

4. A tank assembly according to claim 3, wherein the flexible section comprises the following:
- a flexible element having a first length; and
  - a structural element secured to the first flexible element and having a second length, with the second length being greater than the first length.

Claim 5 (original)

5. A tank assembly according to claim 4, wherein the flexible element is secured in overlaying relation to the structural element.

Claim 6 (original)

6. A tank assembly according to claim 5, wherein the flexible element is fabricated from neoprene.

Claim 7(original)

7. A tank assembly according to claim 1, wherein the a tank-holding assembly comprises a pouch fabricated from neoprene.

Claim 8 (original)

8. A human-carried portable medical fluid assembly comprising the following:

a source of therapeutic liquid;

a source-holding assembly adapted and constructed to contain the source of therapeutic fluid; and

a shoulder strap attached to the a source-holding assembly, with at least a portion of the strap being configured to flex during movement of the human carrier of the source-holding assembly to such a degree that the perceived weight of the source-holding assembly is lessened.

Claim 9 (original)

9. A medical fluid assembly according to claim 8, wherein the strap comprises a multi-element strap.

Claim 10 (amended)

10. (Amended) A medical fluid assembly according to claim 9, wherein the strap further comprises the following:

- a flexible section;
- a first structural section having a first end secured to the source-holding assembly and a second end secured to the flexible section; and
- a second structural section having a first end secured to the source-holding assembly and a second end secured to the flexible section;

whereby the structural sections are fabricated from a material that has less or no elasticity in comparison to the material from which the flexible section is made.

Claim 11 (original)

11. A medical fluid assembly according to claim 10, wherein the flexible section comprises the following:

- a flexible element having a first length; and
- a structural element secured to the first flexible element and having a second length, with the second length being greater than the first length.

Claim 12 (original)

12. A medical fluid assembly according to claim 11, wherein the flexible element is secured in overlaying relation to the structural element.

Claim 13 (original)

13. A medical fluid assembly according to claim 12, wherein the flexible element is fabricated from neoprene.

Claim 14 (original)

14. A medical fluid assembly according to claim 8, wherein the source-holding assembly comprises a pouch fabricated from neoprene.

Claim 15 (original)

15. A method for carrying a portable medical tank assembly, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a tank containing a therapeutic liquid;

placing the tank in a tank-holding assembly adapted and constructed to contain the tank;

attaching a shoulder strap to the tank-holding assembly, with at least a portion of the strap being configured to flex during movement of the human carrier of the tank-holding assembly to such a degree that the perceived weight of the tank and tank-holding assembly is lessened; and

securing the strap to the shoulder of a user.

Claim 16 (original)

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the step of providing a strap comprises providing a multi-element strap.

Claim 17 (amended)

17. (Amended) A method according to claim 16, wherein the step of providing a strap further comprises the following:

providing a flexible section;

securing a first end of a first structural section to the tank-holding assembly;

securing a second end of a first structural section to the flexible section;

securing a first end of a second structural section to the tank-holding assembly;

and

securing a second end of the second structural section to the flexible section;

whereby the structural sections are fabricated from a material that has less or no elasticity than the material from which the flexible section is made.

Claim 18 (original)

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the flexible section comprises the following:

a flexible element having a first length; and

a structural element secured to the first flexible element and having a second length, with the second length being greater than the first length.

Claim 19 (original)

19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising securing the flexible element in overlaying relation to the structural element.

Claim 20 (original)

20. A method according to claim 15, further comprising providing the tank-holding assembly as a pouch fabricated from neoprene.

Claim 21 (new)

20. (New) A method according to claim 19, wherein the flexible element is fabricated from neoprene.

Claim 22 (new)

21. (New) A method according to claim 15, further comprising providing the tank-holding assembly as a pouch fabricated from neoprene.